



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-1479, **Agenda Item #:** 29.

3/25/2021

### Posting Language

Ratify a contract with PeopleFund to administer the Austin Legacy Business Relief Grant program to disburse funds and provide technical assistance to legacy businesses in Austin in need of relief as a result of COVID-19 pandemic in an amount not to exceed \$5,500,000, with an option to amend and extend the term if additional grant funds become available.

### Lead Department

Economic Development.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$5,500,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund's Operating Budget.

### Prior Council Action

October 1, 2020 - Council approved Ordinance No. 20201001-052 <<https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=353431>> amending certain Fiscal Year 2020-2021 department budgets to fund the Save Austin's Vital Economic Sectors (SAVES) Fund to support COVID-19 emergency relief as follows: the Financial Services Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer out and appropriate \$6,000,000 to the General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund; and the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Building Services Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer out and appropriate \$500,000 to the General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund; the Pay for Success Reserve Fund Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer out and appropriate \$4,800,000 to the General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund; and the Austin Transportation Department Mobility Fund Operating Budget (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to transfer out and appropriate \$3,700,000 to the General Fund Emergency Reserve Fund; and declaring an emergency.

December 3, 2020 - Council approved Resolution No. 20201203-012 <<https://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=352041>> to establish enhanced program guidelines for the Austin Legacy Business Relief Grant, a \$5,000,000 program to help support Austin-based live music venues impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### For More Information

Sylnovia Holt-Rabb, Acting Director, Economic Development Department, 512-974-3131.

### Additional Backup Information

In response to financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Austin City Council established the Austin Legacy Business Relief Grant program to help local legacy businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the City Council's direction, the City of Austin Economic Development Department (EDD) sought a third-party non-profit to administer these relief programs. EDD evaluated third parties based on their experience providing direct program delivery and administration assistance, including managing local, state, federal or private funding to assist in grant administration.

EDD selected PeopleFund (“the Contractor”) to administer these programs. The Contractor is expected to meet with EDD project management representatives regularly, as identified in the scope of work and deliverables. The Contractor will provide administrative oversight, facilitation, and holistic program delivery in issuing recovery grants to eligible grant applicants of the programs. The Contractor will also provide cohort-style technical assistance to support legacy business recovery.

Through this contract, the Contractor will provide direct financial assistance and technical assistance to legacy businesses located in the City of Austin that have been impacted by COVID-19 and which are eligible to receive funding through the program guidelines adopted by Council on December 3, 2020.

Economic Opportunity and Affordability.